

16TH STREET PLAZAS OUTREACH SUMMARY

Throughout the past year of public outreach conducted by the Mission Public Life Team, the 16th BART Plazas have consistently been identified as an important place in the heart of the Mission neighborhood for a number of reasons.

Many commented that these plazas serve as gathering places and living rooms for residents living nearby, as the “storefront” for many small scale vending operations, as the connection point for MUNI trips, and of course as entries and exits to the regional BART system. In short, these plazas are hubs of significant importance for wide swaths of the Mission District community and are heavily used on a daily basis.

In response to this input, the Mission Public Life Team held a May 22 workshop to report back to the Mission Street community on what had been heard about the 16th Street BART Plazas and to announce a series of three focus group meetings to discuss three principle areas of concern: commerce, public safety and public art.

MISSION PUBLIC LIFE PLAN



COMMERCE

On July 1, 2014 interested stakeholders convened to discuss the possibility of new micro-vending opportunities at the 16th Street BART Plazas. An overarching theme of the discussion was the need to recognize the delicate balance and needs of all 16th Street BART Plaza users (commuters, existing informal vendors, nearby hotel residents, and homeless individuals) when considering new, micro-vending opportunities. We heard an interest in pursuing micro-vending opportunities on these plazas while recognizing the existing congestion of users.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On July 8, 2014 concerned community members brainstormed about the opportunities for community-based efforts to strengthen maintenance and monitoring of the 16th Street BART Plazas. We learned about an existing new pilot effort, called the Community Ambassadors, led by Mission Neighborhood Resource Center. The consensus opinion recognized the value of this program focusing on service provision, rather than penalization or displacement. We heard an interest in establishing and reinforcing this program as needs and resources dictate and allow.

PUBLIC ART

On July 15, 2014 participants discussed the need to collaborate with the existing Mission Street arts community. We heard a great enthusiasm for public art events (visual and performance art) on these plazas on a rotating basis. Participants also raised the need for a funded position to curate such rotating public art program. Some ideas for initial public art expressions were discussed such as the area's recent social history.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are in conversation with community organizations to develop the next phase of these projects.

We are also looking for community stewards that can take these three initiatives and implement them with the City's facilitation.

If you are interested or have suggestions please contact us at diego.sanchez@sfgov.org.



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